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Docket No. 4173/2

AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 3, and 15 are rewritten as shown below. Claim 13 is canceled. A complete set of claims is supplied, pursuant to the conditions of the waiver described above.

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1. (currently rewritten) A computer-based system for truck rentals, comprising:
a server which processes user inputs from a user's computer over a communications network and provides information responsive thereto to the user's computer over the communications network from which a service contract is generated and confirmed, the server comprising:
a memory in which is stored a plurality of data sets relating to (a) trucks which can be rented and associated rental prices for the trucks, (b) towing accessories that can be rented, and towed vehicles with which the towing accessories can be used, (c) towing accessories and associated rental prices for the towing accessories, and (d) expertise-based guidance relating to trucks, and (e) expertise-based guidance relating to towing accessories; and
programming for processing responsive to user inputs and the data relating to the trucks and towing accessories to access the memory and provide data from respective data sets expertise-based guidance to a user computer over the communications network.
 2. (previously rewritten) In a computer-based system for truck rentals which includes a server which processes user inputs from a user's computer over a communications network and provides information responsive thereto to the user's computer over the communication network from which a service contract is generated and confirmed, the improvement comprising a memory in which is stored a data set relating to towing accessories that can be rented and towed vehicles with which the towing accessories can

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be used, and programming responsive to a user input identifying a vehicle to be towed which accesses the memory and provides to the user computer over the communications network data indicating availability or not of a towed accessory for the identified vehicle to be towed in accordance with the data set.

3. (currently rewritten) In a computer-based system for vehicle rentals which includes a server which processes user inputs from a user's computer over a communications network and provides information responsive thereto to the user's computer over the communication network from which a service contract is generated and confirmed, the improvement comprising a memory in which is stored a data set relating to vehicle pick-up and drop-off locations for vehicles to be rented, and programming responsive to a user input identifying a geographical location in which the user desires to drop off a rented vehicle, ~~is to be dropped off~~ which accesses the memory and provides to the user computer over the communications network data indicating at least two locations closest to the geographic location input for pick-up and at least two locations nearest to the geographic location input for drop-off.

4. (original) The system of claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the communications network is the Internet and the programming provides the data to the user computer in the context of one or more web pages.

5. (original) The system of claim 1 comprising a payment-processing subsystem for establishing payment arrangements with the user in response to user inputs providing payment data communicated to the server over the communications network.

6. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the memory stores a data set relating to discounts available to qualified users, and wherein the server, responsive to user inputs providing data relating to discount eligibility, provides a quote for rental of a selected truck including a discount corresponding to the user inputted discount eligibility data.

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7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the server, responsive to user inputs corresponding to truck selection, pick-up and drop-off locations, and a pickup date, generates a service contract data set, including a quote for the truck rental, associated with the user to be provided to the user's computer over the communications network.

8. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein the user inputs include a selection of moving accessories; and

wherein the server generates the service contract data set associated with the user and including the costs for the accessories in the quote for the truck rental.

9. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein the user inputs include a reservation confirmation command; and

wherein the server, responsive to the reservation confirmation command, generates a confirmation message to be provided to the user's computer through the communications interface.

10. (previously rewritten) An Internet-based system for aiding users to create and confirm reservations for truck rentals, the system comprising: a web server for providing a plurality of web pages accessible through the Internet and for processing user inputs received through the Internet from a user's computer operating an Internet browser displaying the plurality of web pages, at least one web page having at least one input field for receiving the user inputs; and a backend server operatively connected to the web server and responsive to the user inputs, the backend server having a memory for storing the plurality of web pages, for storing truck-related information in a database, and for storing user-generated reservation information; and at least one program module for processing the user inputs and the truck-related information to determine and display to the user a set of closest locations associated with a departure location and a destination location specified by the user, to access and display directions from a user-specified address to the departure and destination locations, to generate towing guide information corresponding to a user-specified vehicle to be towed by the rented truck, to generate and

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display a quote for the truck rental corresponding to the user inputs, for processing payment information provided by the user, for generating the reservation information from the user inputs, and for confirming the reservation to the user with a confirmation message.

11. (original) The system of claim 10, wherein the at least one program module, responsive to modifications of the user inputs prior to confirmation of the reservation, modifies the reservation information.

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12. (previously rewritten) In an Internet-based system for aiding users to create and confirm reservations for truck rentals which includes a web server for providing a plurality of web pages accessible through the Internet and for processing user inputs received through the Internet from a user's computer operating an Internet browser displaying the plurality of web pages which include at least one input field for receiving the user inputs, the improvement comprising a web page including data fields containing all information necessary for a service contract, the information either provided in response to user input or available from the system, in which all data fields may be modified on the web page by the user without having to revert to another web page.

13. (canceled).

14. (original) In a computer-based method for truck rentals which provides truck availability and pricing information, the improvement comprising the steps of providing towed vehicle identification data to the user, receiving a towed vehicle selection, determining whether an accessory is available for the particular selected vehicle, and informing the user of the result of the determination.

15. (currently rewritten) In a computer-based system for vehicle rentals which processes user inputs from a user's computer over a communications network and provides information responsive thereto to the user's computer over the communication

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network from which a service contract is generated and confirmed, the improvement comprising receiving user information which a new user provides as part of the process of requesting a reservation for a vehicle the user desires to rent, the information identifying a vehicle pick-up location and a vehicle drop-off location, and providing the user with information identifying at least two locations closest to the vehicle pick-up location and at least two locations nearest to the vehicle drop-off input by the user.

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16. (previously rewritten) In an Internet-based method for aiding users to create and confirm reservations for truck rentals comprising providing information to a user which a user uses to select useful truck rental information, receiving the information input by the user and generating a reservation form for the user, the improvement comprising generating a reservation form on a web page which contains all reservation information provided in response to user input which may be changed by the user directly on the form on that web page without having to access another web page.

17. (previously rewritten) A method for facilitating truck rentals comprising the steps of:
providing a plurality of web pages accessible to a user through the Internet, at least one web page including a form for receiving user inputs;
storing in a memory truck-related information including types of trucks and associated rental prices;
storing in the memory expertise-based information, including vehicle-specific towing requirements and directions to respective locations of truck rental affiliates; and
processing user inputs with a server using the truck-related information and the expertise-related information to assist the user to generate and confirm a service contract to rent a selected truck.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the expertise-based information includes a table of vehicle towing information; and
wherein the step of processing includes the steps of:

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receiving user-input selections of equipment including a selection of a truck for rental and a selection of a vehicle type for towing by the selected truck;
accessing the vehicle towing table to determine if the selected vehicle is capable of being towed by the selected truck; and
generating a towing advice indication for display to the user whether the selected truck is appropriate for towing the selected vehicle.

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19. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein expertise-based information includes an affiliate table of truck-rental affiliates including geographic locations and a direction table storing travel directions to the affiliates; and

wherein the step of processing includes the steps of:
receiving user-inputs corresponding to a departure location and a destination location;
accessing the affiliate table to determine the closest affiliates to the departure and destination locations, respectively;
accessing travel directions for the closest affiliates; and
providing the travel directions for display to the user.

20. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein the server includes a payment-processing sub-system; and

wherein the processing step includes the steps of:
receiving user inputs corresponding to payment information; and
establishing payment arrangements with the customer corresponding to the user inputs.

21. (original) The method of claim 20, wherein the payment-processing sub-system includes credit-card processors; and

wherein the user inputs include credit card information.

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22. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the user inputs indicate discount eligibility; and

wherein the processing step includes the steps of:
generating a quote for rental of a selected truck from the user-accessible data sets; and
adjusting the quote using a discount corresponding to the user inputted discount eligibility.

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23. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the user inputs correspond to truck selection, departure and destination locations, and a pickup date; and
wherein the processing steps includes the steps of:
generating a service contract data set, including a quote for the truck rental, associated with the user.

24. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the user inputs include a selection of moving accessories; and
wherein the step of generating the service contract data set includes the step of:
adding the costs for the accessories in the quote for the truck rental.

25. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein the user inputs include a reservation confirmation command; and
wherein the step of processing includes the steps of:
receiving the reservation confirmation command; and
generating a confirmation message to be provided to the user.